

NSC BRIEFING

27 March 1957

DEVELOPMENTS IN JORDAN

- I. Political developments in Jordan continue to drift unfavorably. The leftist Prime Minister has thusfar succeeded in stalling King Hussain's efforts both to oust him and to remove the extreme leftist ministers from his cabinet.
 - A. The Prime Minister and his supporters appear willing to risk open defiance of the throne, since they believe formation of a new cabinet would be nearly impossible at present.
 - B. The three-day demonstration by armed mobs following the 13 Mar termination of the UK treaty is graphic illustration of the forces which Jordan's leftists could direct against the throne.
 - C. Jordanian nationalists are now promoting a "federal union" of Jordan with Egypt and Syria.
 - D. The Gov't has already joined with Egypt and Syria in a "student military training program" which could develop leftist paramilitary action groups.
- II. In an attempt to strengthen his position, King Hussain is now cultivating right-wing nationalist groups as allies in the "street", increasing the police force, and arming the Bedouin tribes which dominate East Jordan.
 - A. Drastic measures to counter leftist gains are now being considered by Jordan's conservatives. These include plans to ban political parties, suspend the constitution, dismiss the cabinet and legislature, and install direct rule by the throne with army support.

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DOCUMENT NO. _____
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. IT

DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO

NEXT REVIEW DATE

AUTH: HQ 702

DATE 1-16-80

~~SECRET~~

Approved For Release 2000/08/29 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000800050028-4

- B. Jordan's opportunistic chief of staff, General Nuwar--who has a record of intrigue with both leftist and rightist groups--is known to favor establishment of such a regime, which would place the army in virtual control.
- C. However, the Palestinian Arab majority in Jordan's population could be expected to offer strong opposition to such a move.

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27 March 1957

DEVELOPMENTS IN JORDAN

- I. Political developments in Jordan continue to drift unfavorably. Leftist Prime Minister thusfar successful in stalling King Hussein's efforts to make change in Gov't.
- II. In attempt to strengthen his position, the king is cultivating right-wing nationalist groups, increasing the police, arming East Jordan's Bedouin tribes.
- III. Drastic measures to counter leftists now being considered by Jordan's conservatives: plan includes ban on political parties, suspension of constitution, dismissal of cabinet and legislature, and direct rule by throne with army support.
 - A. Chief of staff (General Muwar)--an intriguer with both leftist and rightist groups--favors the plan, which would place army in control.
 - B. However, Palestinian Arab majority in Jordan's population would strongly oppose such moves.